

STREET SMART

June 2, 2004

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 472 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92401 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ Measure I takes another step toward November ballot

The placement of Measure I on the November ballot moved forward another step as SANBAG Board members approved the Transportation Expenditure Plan and sales tax ordinance and asked the Board of Supervisors to call the election.

Measure I, which is San Bernardino County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements, was approved by county voters in 1989. The measure will expire in 2010. SANBAG, in its role as the County Transportation Authority, has been working to place the continuation of Measure I on the ballot for voter consideration this November. If approved by a two-thirds majority, Measure I would continue for 30 years beyond its 2010 expiration date.

Before placing the measure before the voters, SANBAG is required to create a plan for spending the anticipated sales tax revenue. This Transportation Expenditure Plan includes the following:

- Improvements to freeways and highways
- Improvements to on-ramps and off-ramps
- Improvements to major streets
- Funding returned to cities for repair and widening of local streets
- Expansion of Metrolink and Gold Line services,
- Bus fare discounts and expanded service for seniors and riders with disabilities
- Development of an express bus/bus rapid transit network
- Traffic management systems, like synchronized traffic signals

"We are excited about taking the next step toward placing Measure I before our voters," said SANBAG Executive Director Norm King. "Continuing Measure I will mean more efficient freeways, highways, on-ramps and off-ramps, streets, commuter trains and public buses, all of which will keep our county mobile."

Board members unanimously approved the Transportation Expenditure Plan, which also was approved during the past four weeks by the Board of Supervisors and each of the 24 city councils or town councils countywide. According to the Public Utilities Code that governs Measure I, approval of the Expenditure Plan was needed by the Board of Supervisors and majority of the cities with a majority of the population. These thresholds were met; all of the agencies approved the plan.

In addition to the Expenditure Plan approval, the SANBAG Board also approved the ordinance that will govern how the sales tax is administered and made a finding that the placement of Measure I on the ballot would not require review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

SANBAG further requested that the Board of Supervisors call an election for voter consideration of the continuation of Measure I as part of the November 2 ballot. The Board of Supervisors is expected to act on this request later this month.



■ SANBAG on the move, June 17-18

Starting June 21, San Bernardino Associated Governments has a new address at the historic Santa Fe Depot:

**1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715**

SANBAG staff will be moving June 17-18, with the goal of having the new offices operational by June 21. The telephone number has not changed: (909) 884-8276. All telephone extensions also will remain the same.

SANBAG and the City of San Bernardino have been partners in the restoration of the Santa Fe Depot. With the restoration complete, SANBAG will move to the second floor of the Depot from its current Arrowhead Avenue offices.

For a map and more information about the Santa Fe Depot, visit www.sanbag.ca.gov. Page 2 of this edition of **Street Smart** also includes restoration highlights and news about the June 13 public grand opening.

Down the road ...

- June 9: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- June 9: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- June 10: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- June 13: Santa Fe Depot Grand Opening, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.; see page 2 for details
- June 17-18: SANBAG Move to Depot

All aboard for Santa Fe Depot grand opening, June 13

Public is invited to whistle-blowing, tours, exhibits, more!

Railroad enthusiasts, history buffs and the community at large are invited to the grand opening and "whistle blowing" ceremony for the newly restored Santa Fe Depot on June 13. The event will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1170 W. Third Street in San Bernardino.

As a dual boon to history and train lovers, historic Steam Engine 3751 also will be on display at the Santa Fe Depot during the event. Special guests will be some of the original Harvey Girls, who revolutionized and memorialized the unique style of service for the Harvey House Restaurant in the Depot.

The event also will include strolling mariachis, food concessions and memorabilia displayed by the San Bernardino Railroad Historical Society and the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society. An original watercolor of the Depot and Engine 3751 by artist Donal Jolley will be offered through an "opportunity chance" drawing. Commemorative engraved brick pavers will be available for individuals and companies to purchase; the pavers will be placed in the Depot courtyard. Proceeds from sales will benefit the depot art projects, the San Bernardino Symphony and non-profit public art projects.

This month's issue of *Measuring Success* provides an overview of the Santa Fe Depot restoration. The project was funded in part by Measure I, San Bernardino County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

Santa Fe Depot -- History

First built in 1886 as a wooden structure, the Santa Fe Depot was destroyed by fire in 1916. An impressive new structure was built in 1918 in a Mission Revival style with Moorish influences, and the Depot was rebuilt to match these styles. With the dawn of the automobile age and the decline in passenger train use, the Depot gradually fell into a state of disrepair.

Project Funding

The restoration of the Santa Fe Depot came to life in the mid-1990s, when the City of San Bernardino and SANBAG teamed up to apply for federal funds. Thanks in large part to Congressman Jerry Lewis, approximately \$11 million was secured in federal dollars. The city and SANBAG provided about \$4 million in additional funds, part of which were derived from Measure I.

Depot Restoration -- What a Project!

Work began in November 2002 on the Depot restoration. A significant first step was the removal of \$1 million worth of asbestos. Vines had crawled through the building roof, necessitating removal. Pigeons -- and four inches deep of pigeon droppings -- also were evacuated. More than 500 pounds of honey were found within the Depot walls from busy bees, requiring additional removal.

During the renovation, there were as many as 100 workers on the job at one time. More than 50 subcontractors were hired under the direction of the project contractor, Soltek-Pacific, and construction management firm, Transtech.

Extreme Makeover

Improvements to the building exterior included the installation of a new roof, removal and cleaning of roof tiles, reconstruction of a canopy over the front double-doors and replacement of drainage spouts, lighting, wood trim, stairway and brick patio area. A new parking lot was built, and the building was completely power-washed to remove years of dirt.

Interior Improvements

Inside, in addition to the removal of vines, birds, bees, honey and asbestos, workers removed the old heating system and replaced with a modern heating and air conditioning system. Column capitals were repaired, windows were replaced with "restoration glass," doors were repaired or replaced, wall and floor tiles were cleaned and repaired, staircases were reinforced, and lighting was revamped to meet current electrical standards.



Column capitals were repaired in the Santa Fe Depot lobby through this renovation effort.

Other modern amenities include upgraded plumbing, carpeting, restroom stalls to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, fire-sprinkler systems and an elevator.

A new coat of paint was added to the second floor, particularly in offices that formerly were painted a "Pepto-Bismol pink." The second floor contains a newer "west wing" and an historic "east wing."

The former baggage room has been converted to a community room, suitable for meetings. SANBAG's Board of Directors plans to use the community room for its future monthly meetings.

For more information about the Depot restoration and a map to the building, visit SANBAG's website at www.sanbag.ca.gov.

